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(54) **CUCN-MEDIATED ONE POT PRODUCTION OF CINNAMONITRILE DERIVATIVES**

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**C07C 255/34** (2006.01)

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(52) **U.S. Cl.**

CPC ..... **C07C 253/14** (2013.01); **C07C 255/34** (2013.01); **C07C 303/30** (2013.01); **C07C 319/20** (2013.01); **C07D 317/58** (2013.01); **C07D 317/60** (2013.01); **C07D 317/68** (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**

CPC ... **C07D 317/58**; **C07D 317/60**; **C07C 255/34**  
USPC ..... **549/442**; **558/401**  
See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

The present invention discloses a cheaper and practical protocol for the construction of a wide variety of o-cyanocinnammonitrile and their structural analogs that proceeds with good yields in a single step using CuCN as the only reagent.

**5 Claims, No Drawings**

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# CUCN-MEDIATED ONE POT PRODUCTION OF CINNAMONITRILE DERIVATIVES

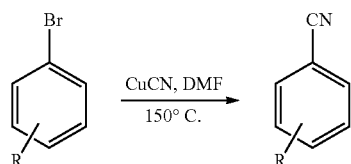
## CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a 35 U.S.C. §371 National Phase Application of International PCT Patent Application No. PCT/IN2013/000137, filed Mar. 7, 2013 which application claims the benefit of priority to Indian Patent Application No. 664/DEL/2012, filed Mar. 7, 2012, the contents of each of which in their entirety are hereby incorporated herein by reference.

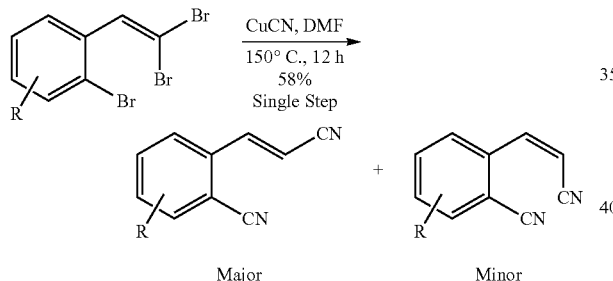
## FIELD OF INVENTION

The present invention relates to a cheaper and practical protocol for the preparation of compounds of formula A, its isomers and their structural analogues in a one pot and single step via hydrocyanation reaction of compound of general formula I with good yields.

### 1) Rosenmund-von Braun Reaction:



### 2) This Work:



## BACKGROUND OF INVENTION & DESCRIPTION OF PRIOR ART

Aryl nitriles can be prepared by the cyanation of aryl halides with an excess of copper(I) cyanide in a polar high-boiling solvent such as DMF, nitrobenzene, or pyridine at reflux temperature using Rosenmund-von Braun Reaction.

Alpha beta unsaturated nitriles are versatile reagents which have been used extensively in the synthesis of heterocycle compounds. Synthesis of cinnamitrile by treating benzaldehyde with acetonitrile in presence of alkali is disclosed in Organic Syntheses, Coll. Vol. 7, p.108 (1990); Vol. 62, p.179 (1984). An article titled "Efficient One-Pot Synthesis of 2-Amino-4H-chromenes Catalyzed by Ferric Hydrogen Sulfate and Zr-Based Catalysts of FI" published in Synthesis and Reactivity in Inorganic, Metal-Organic, and Nano-Metal Chemistry, Volume 41, Issue 9, 2011, wherein, the preparation of  $\alpha$ -cyanocinnamitrile is carried by the condensation of aldehyde with malononitrile to afford  $\alpha$ -cyanocinnamitrile derivatives by Knoevenagel addition reaction.

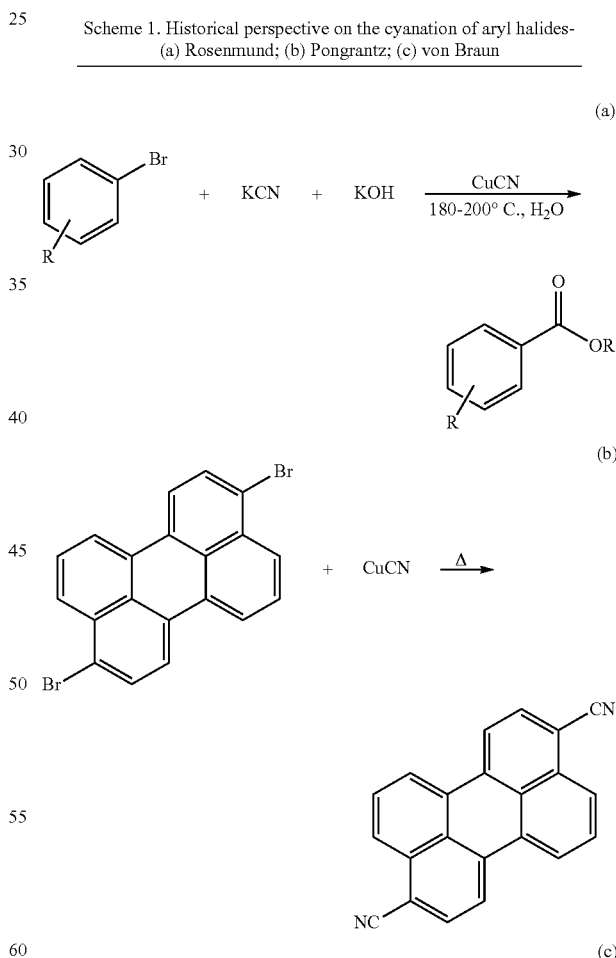
Decarboxylation of E-3-phenyl-2-cyanopropenoic acid in dimethyl sulfoxide containing sodium bicarbonate, lithium

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chloride, and water in molar excess afforded, with high stereospecificity, Z-cinnamitrile is disclosed in an article titled "Stereochemistry of the dealkoxycarbonylation of methyl  $\alpha$ -cyanocinnamate and of the decarboxylation of the corresponding cyano acid: a facile stereoselective route to Z-cinnamitrile" Tetrahedron Letters, Volume 24, Issue 36, 1983, Pages 3835-3838. Article titled, "HYDROCYANATION OF ALKENES AND ALKYNES" by T. V. (BABU) RAJANBABU reports that Hydrogen cyanide itself is relatively unreactive, but in the presence of a catalyst HCN adds to carbonyl compounds, alkenes, and alkynes, offering a direct and economical way to such organonitrile intermediates.

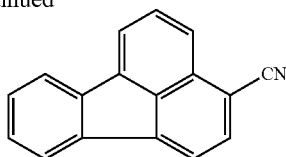
In a scientific article titled, "The preparation of aryl nitriles" by DIANDRA M. RUDZINSKI, NICHOLAS E. LEADBEATER in *chimica oggi/Chemistry Today*—vol. 29 n. 4 July/August 2011, reports the process of CYANATION through Modern methodologies by using catalytic amounts of transition-metal complexes, together with less toxic cyanide sources making chemistry more efficient, applicable and safer.

Scheme 1. Historical perspective on the cyanation of aryl halides—(a) Rosenmund; (b) Pongrantz; (c) von Braun

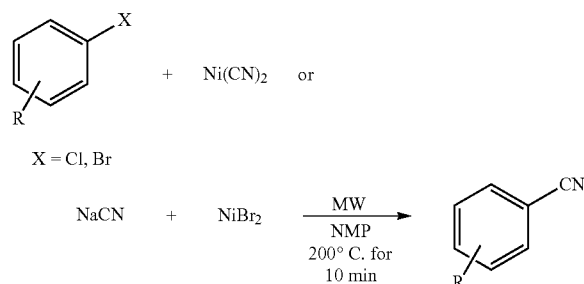


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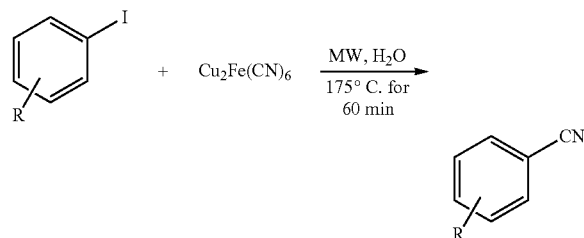
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Scheme 4. Nickel-mediated cyanation and tandem halide exchange/cyanation approach to the conversion of aryl halides to nitriles.



Scheme 6. Use of  $\text{Cu}_2\text{Fe}(\text{CN})_6$  as both catalyst and cyanide source for cyanation of aryl halides.



Article titled, "Mechanistic Insights into the Hydrocyanation Reaction" by Laura Bini in page 121, reports the hydrocyanation of styrene in presence of CuCN giving 78% conversion and 88% selectivity with a ratio of 13:87 for linear and branched nitriles and a yield of 73-80%. cinnamitrile and their esters have wide range of industrial applications for example in cosmetic industry.

Although few inventions have been made in the synthesis of cinnamitrile they require multiple steps with consumption of large quantities of hazardous chemicals with less efficiency and narrow substrate scope. Therefore, there is a need in the art to provide an alternate and effective synthesis to provide a library of cinnamitrile. Further it would be desirable have a process of synthesis of cinnamitriles by a convenient single step one pot process. Specifically, it would be desirable to provide a simple process for the conversion of dibromovinyl benzenes to their corresponding cinnamitriles.

#### OBJECTS OF INVENTION

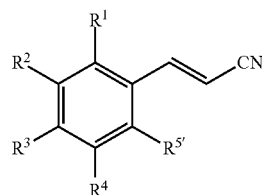
The main object of the present invention is to provide an effective one pot synthesis, single step for the preparation of cinnamitrile derivatives via hydrocyanation reaction with good yields.

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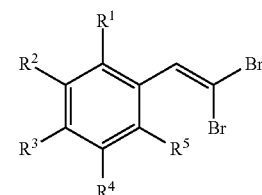
#### SUMMARY OF INVENTION

In an embodiment of the present invention a one pot, single step process for the preparation of compound of formula A and its isomers, starting from compounds of formula I,

Formula A



Formula I



Wherein,

$\text{R}^1$  is hydrogen;

$\text{R}^2$  is selected from H, OMe, OTs, OBn;

$\text{R}^3$  is selected from H, OMe, OTs, OBn,  $\text{NO}_2$ ;

$\text{R}^4$  is selected from H, OMe, F;

$\text{R}^5$  is selected from H,  $\text{NO}_2$ , Br;

$\text{R}^{5'}$  is selected from H,  $\text{NO}_2$ , CN;

$\text{R}^2$  and  $\text{R}^3$  can together be selected as  $-\text{O}-\text{CH}_2-\text{O}-$ ;

comprising the steps of reacting compound of formula I with CuCN in DMF, under reflux in presence of  $\text{N}_2$  atmosphere to obtain the desired compound of formula A in the range of 50-90% yield.

In another embodiment of the present invention, the said compound of formula I and CuCN are in the ratio of 1:2 to 1:3.

In yet another embodiment of the present invention, isomers of compound of formula A are trans and cis isomers in the ratio of 3:1 to 10:1.

In yet another embodiment of the present invention, the reaction is carried out at a temperature ranging from 140 to 160° C.

In yet another embodiment of the present invention, the reaction is carried out for a time ranging from 10 to 15 hours.

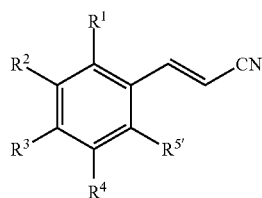
#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

In accordance with the above, the instant invention provides one pot single step synthesis, of CuCN-mediated hydrocyanation reaction, for the preparation of cinnamitrile derivatives. The CuCN-mediated hydrocyanation reaction according to the invention essentially makes use of the conditions prescribed for Rosenmund-von Braun Reaction.

The process of the present invention is easier to adopt on industrial scale for preparation of library of cinnamitrile derivatives as it involves a one pot hydrocyanation reaction. The process of the instant invention is cost effective when compared to the existing methods as it involves CuCN, a very cheaper reagent, easy to maintain and perform at higher scales, showed remarkably broad substrate scope and good functional group tolerance and do not cause much effluent generation. The procedure tolerates a series of functional groups, such as methoxyl, fluoro etc.

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In an aspect of the invention, cinnamionitrile derivative of formula (A) is represented as enlisted herein:



Formula A

Wherein,

R<sup>1</sup> is hydrogen;

R<sup>2</sup> is selected from H, OMe, OTs, OBn; (Ts=Tosyl, Bn=Benzyln))

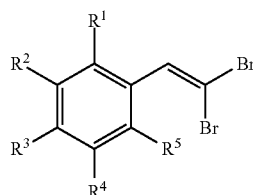
R<sup>3</sup> is selected from H, OMe, OTs, OBn, NO<sub>2</sub>;

R<sup>4</sup> is selected from H, OMe, F;

R<sup>5</sup> is selected from H, NO<sub>2</sub>, CN;

R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> can together be selected as —O—CH<sub>2</sub>—O—;

In an aspect of the invention, the compound of Formula I is



Formula I

Wherein,

R<sup>1</sup> is hydrogen;

R<sup>2</sup> is selected from H, OMe, OTs, OBn;

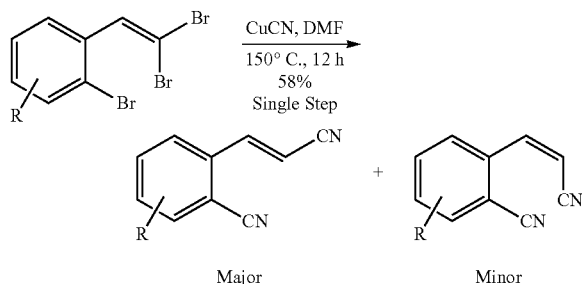
R<sup>3</sup> is selected from H, OMe, OTs, OBn, NO<sub>2</sub>;

R<sup>4</sup> is selected from H, OMe, F;

R<sup>5</sup> is selected from H, NO<sub>2</sub>, BR;

R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> can together be selected as —O—CH<sub>2</sub>—O—;

In a preferred embodiment, the invention discloses preparation of cinnamionitrile derivatives, which process comprises treating substituted 2,2-dibromovinyl benzene with CuCN in DMF at 150° C. for 10-15 hrs to obtain substituted cinnamionitrile derivative in a single step. The bromo vinyl benzene and CuCN are used in the ratio of 1:2 to 1:3 in the process described herein. The reaction is shown in scheme below:



Wherein, R is selected from F, H, Br, OMe, OTs, OBn, NO<sub>2</sub>, —O—CH<sub>2</sub>—O—. Accordingly, in a preferred embodiment, a typical procedure is disclosed for the preparation of 3-(2-cyano-4,5-dimethoxyphenyl)acrylonitrile by refluxing a

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stirred solution of 1-bromo-2-(2,2-dibromovinyl)-4,5-dimethoxybenzene or 1-bromo-2-ethynyl-4,5-dimethoxybenzene in DMF with the addition of CuCN under N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere for 12 h (monitored by TLC). The reaction mixture is cooled to room temperature followed by workup of the reaction mixture to obtain crude products which can be purified by column chromatography to get 3-(2-cyano-4,5-dimethoxyphenyl)acrylonitrile in 63% yield.

The present invention discloses preparation of a library of compounds of cinnamionitrile derivatives by employing the process of the present invention. The reactants and the compounds obtained by the process of the invention is described herein below in tables 1.

TABLE 1

S. no.	Reactants						Products		Yield <sup>a</sup> (%)
	R <sup>1</sup>	R <sup>2</sup>	R <sup>3</sup>	R <sup>4</sup>	R <sup>5</sup>	R <sup>5'</sup>	(trans/cis)		
1	H	H	H	H	H	H	4/1	53	
2	H	H	OMe	H	H	H	3/1	52	
3	H	H	NO <sub>2</sub>	H	H	H	4/1	86	
4	H	H	H	H	NO <sub>2</sub>	NO <sub>2</sub>	4/1	88	
5	H	H	H	H	Br	CN	10/1	56	
6	H	OMe	H	H	Br	CN	4/1	73	
7	H	OMe	OMe	H	Br	CN	3/1	82	
8	H	OMe	H	OMe	Br	CN	3/1	71	
9	H	OMe	OMe	OMe	Br	CN	4/1	73	
10	H	OBn	OMe	H	Br	CN	4/1	57	
11	H	OBn	OBn	H	Br	CN	4/1	71	
12	H	OTs	OMe	H	Br	CN	4/1	52	
13	H	H	H	F	Br	CN	3/1	63	
14	H	—O—CH <sub>2</sub> —O—	H	H	Br	CN	3/1	71	

<sup>a</sup>Combined isolated yield after column chromatographic purification.

## EXAMPLES

The following examples, which include preferred embodiments, will serve to illustrate the practice of this invention, it being understood that the particulars shown are by way of example and for purpose of illustrative discussion of preferred embodiments of the invention

### 1. General Information

Solvents were purified and dried by standard procedures before use; petroleum ether of boiling range 60-80° C. was used. Melting points are uncorrected. Infrared spectra were recorded on Shimadzu FTIR-8400 spectrometer. <sup>1</sup>H NMR

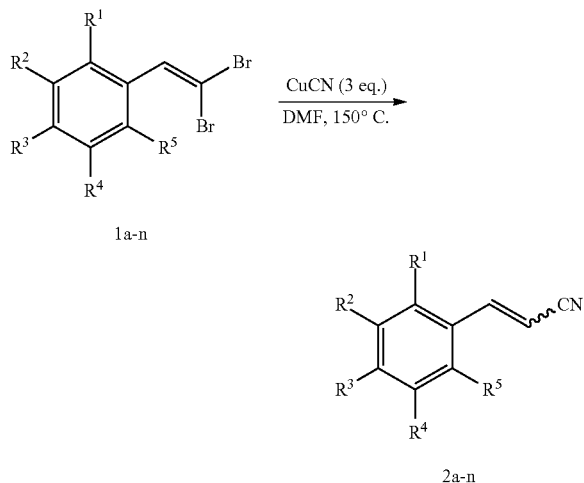
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and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR were recorded on Bruker AV-200, AV-400 & AV-500 NMR spectrometers, respectively. Elemental analysis was carried on a Carlo Erba CHNS-O analyzer. Purification was done using column chromatography (230-400 mesh).

## 2. Experimental Section

### A General Experimental Procedure for the Preparation of Substituted Cinnamitrile (2a-n)

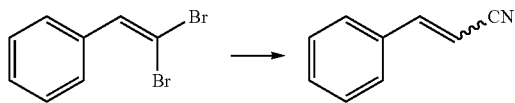
Scheme 1: Synthesis of substituted cinnamitrile (2a-n)



The dibromoolefines 1(a-n) (1 mmol) was taken in dry DMF (10 mL) and CuCN (3 mmol) was added to it and the entire solution refluxed under  $\text{N}_2$  for 12 h (monitored by TLC). The reaction mixture was then cooled to room temperature, and diluted with water (30 mL) and EtOAc (25 mL). The organic layer was separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc (3×20 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with brine and dried over anhyd.  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  and concentrated under reduced pressure to give crude products which was purified by column chromatography [silica gel (230-400 mesh) and petroleum ether: EtOAc (7:3) as an eluent] to give substituted cinnamitrile (a-i) in 73-82% yield.

## 3. Experimental Data

### Cinnamitrile (2a)

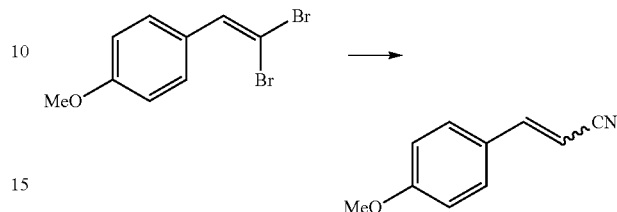


Yield: 72%; IR ( $\text{CHCl}_3$ ,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ):  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  965, 1030, 1107, 1244, 1301, 1601, 1624, 2217;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (200 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  5.44 (d,  $J=12.2$  Hz, 0.23H) Z-isomer, 5.87 (d,  $J=16.6$  Hz, 1H) E-isomer, 7.11 (d,  $J=12.2$  Hz, 0.42H) Z-isomer, 7.40-7.47 (m, 7H), 7.80 (dd,  $J=2.4, 3.6$  Hz, 0.5H), 7.87;  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR (50 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  94.9, 96.3, 117.8, 127.2, 128.1, 128.7,

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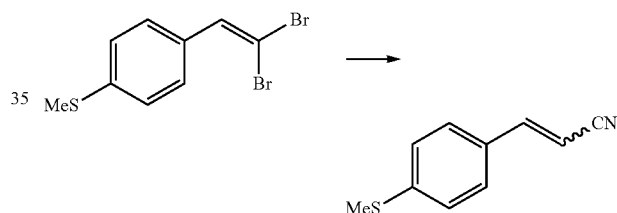
128.8128.9, 129.2, 130.7, 131.0, 133.4, 148.3, 150.2; Analysis:  $\text{C}_9\text{H}_7\text{N}$  requires C, 83.69; H, 5.46; N, 10.84. found: C, 83.49; H, 5.63; N, 10.24%.

### 3-(4-methoxyphenyl)acrylonitrile (2b)



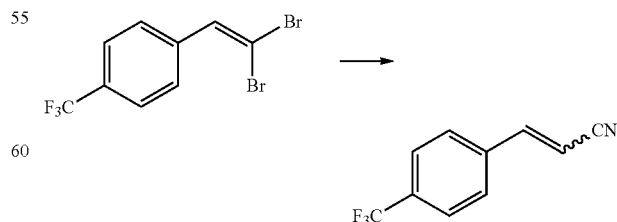
Yield: 78%; IR ( $\text{CHCl}_3$ ,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ):  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  985, 940, 1041, 1134, 1296, 1454, 1512, 1590, 2219;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (200 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  3.84 (s, 3H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 5.28 (d,  $J=12.2$ , 1H) Z-isomer, 5.70 (d,  $J=16.5$  Hz, 0.82H) E-isomer, 6.87-7.05 (m, 5H), 7.26 (d,  $J=3.0$ , 1H), 7.38 (d,  $J=8.84$ , 2H), 7.78 (d,  $J=8.84$ , 2H),  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR (50 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  55.1, 55.2, 91.6, 93.1, 114.0, 114.3, 126.1, 126.3, 128.8, 130.7, 147.7, 149.6, 161.4, 161.8; Analysis:  $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_9\text{NO}$  requires C, 75.45; H, 5.70; N, 8.80. found: C, 75.65; H, 5.47; N, 8.71%.

### 3-(4-(methylthio)phenyl)acrylonitrile (2c)



Yield: 74%; IR ( $\text{CHCl}_3$ ,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ):  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  752, 992, 1090, 1215, 1279, 1297, 1520, 2219;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (200 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  2.50 (s, 3H), 5.35 (d,  $J=12.0$  Hz, 0.48H) Z-isomer, 5.80 (d,  $J=16.6$  Hz, 1H) E-isomer, 7.03 (d,  $J=12.0$  Hz, 0.48H) Z-isomer, 7.18-7.36 (m, 6H), 7.72 (d,  $J=8.4$  Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR (50 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  14.6, 93.3, 94.7, 117.3, 118.0, 124.6, 125.3, 125.5, 127.4, 129.1, 129.6, 129.7, 142.9, 143.1, 147.5, 149.4; Analysis:  $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_9\text{NS}$  requires C, 68.53; H, 5.18; N, 7.99, S, 18.3 found: C, 68.69; H, 5.18; N, 7.56%.

### 3-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)acrylonitrile (2d)

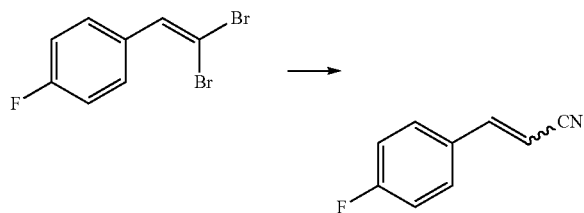


Yield: 73%; IR ( $\text{CHCl}_3$ ,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ):  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  816, 921, 1045, 1276, 1296, 2116;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (200 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  5.60 (d,  $J=12.1$  Hz, 0.82H) Z-isomer, 5.98 (d,  $J=16.6$  Hz, 1H) E-isomer, 7.18

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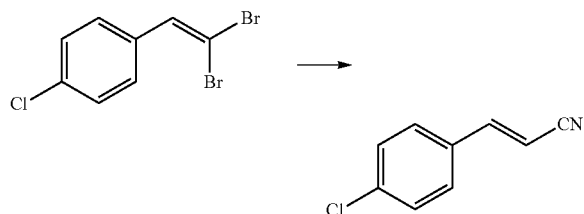
(d, J=12.1 Hz, 0.82H) Z-isomer, 7.43 (d, J=16.6 Hz, 1H) E-isomer, 7.57 (d, J=8.8 Hz 2H), 7.69 (t, J=6.57 Hz, 3H), 7.91 (d, J=8.8 Hz 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR (50 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  97.9, 99.2, 116.4, 117.1, 102.8, 125.6, 125.7, 125.8, 125.9, 126.0, 126.1, 127.5, 129.0, 136.6, 146.8, 148.5; Analysis:  $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_6\text{F}_3\text{N}$  requires C, 60.92; H, 3.07; F, 28.91; N, 7.01 found: C, 60.71; H, 3.11; N, 6.96%.

## 3-(4-fluorophenyl)acrylonitrile (2e)



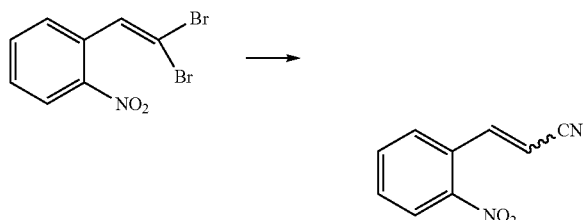
Yield: 76%; IR ( $\text{CHCl}_3$ ,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ):  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  814, 912, 1011, 1064, 1246, 1512, 2219;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (200 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  5.44 (d, J=12.2 Hz, 1H), Z-isomer, 5.80 (d, J=16.1 Hz, 0.84H) E-isomer, 7.05-7.17 (m, 5), 7.36 (d, J=16.1 Hz, 0.84H) E-isomer, 7.41-7.48 (m, 2H), 7.79-7.86 (m, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR (50 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  97.5, 115.4, 117.0, 128.0, 130.8, 146.2, 162.1; Analysis:  $\text{C}_9\text{H}_6\text{FN}$  requires C, 73.46; H, 4.11; F, 12.91; N, 9.52. found: C, 73.62; H, 4.32; N, 9.42%.

## 3-(4-chlorophenyl)acrylonitrile (2f)



Yield: 81%; Colorless oil; IR ( $\text{CHCl}_3$ ,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ):  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  772, 915, 1052, 1124, 1206, 1512, 2121;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (200 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  5.83 (d, 1H, J=16.5 Hz), 7.3 (d, J=16.5 Hz, 1H), 7.38 (s, 4H);  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR (50 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  97.1, 117.5, 128.4, 129.3, 131.9, 137.2, 148.8; Analysis:  $\text{C}_9\text{H}_6\text{ClN}$  requires C, 66.07; H, 3.70; Cl, 21.6; N, 8.56. found: C, 66.21; H, 3.62; N, 8.32%.

## 3-(2-nitrophenyl)acrylonitrile (2g)

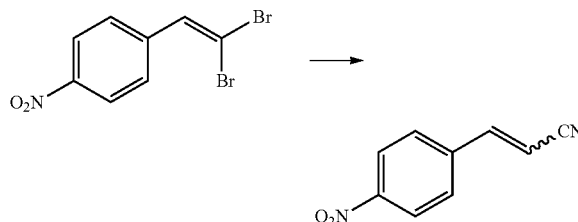


Yield: 88%; IR ( $\text{CHCl}_3$ ,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ):  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  767, 1249, 1604, 1575, 1673, 2118;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (200 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): Z-isomer  $\delta$

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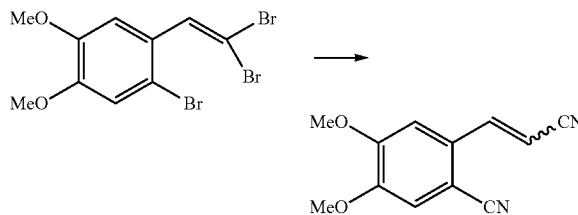
5.72 (d, J=11.7 Hz, 1H), 7.61-7.90 (m, 4H), 8.22 (d, J=8.0 Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR (50 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  101.2, 115.7, 125.2, 129.5, 130.6, 130.9, 134.2, 146.3, 147.2; E-isomer;  $\delta$  5.85 (d, J=16.4 Hz, 1H), 7.56-7.76 (m, 3H), 7.96 (d, J=16.4 Hz, 1H), 8.13 (dd, J=1.5, 8.09 Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR (50 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  101.7, 116.7, 125.3, 128.6, 129.7, 131.2, 133.9, 146.4, 147.5; Analysis:  $\text{C}_9\text{H}_6\text{N}_2\text{O}_2$  requires C, 66.07; H, 3.47; N, 16.09. found: C, 66.03; H, 3.13; N, 16.89%.

## 3-(4-nitrophenyl)acrylonitrile (2h)



Yield: 86%; IR ( $\text{CHCl}_3$ ,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ):  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  736, 853, 1249, 1604, 1546, 1665, 2116;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (200 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): Z-isomer  $\delta$  5.75 (d, J=11.6 Hz, 1H), 7.32 (d, J=11.6 Hz, 1H), 7.56 (d, J=8.1 Hz, 1H), 8.14 (d, J=8.1 Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR (50 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  99.2, 117.0, 122.2, 127.3, 141.3, 146.1, 147.6, 134.2, 146.3, 147.2; E-isomer;  $\delta$  6.05 (d, J=16.6 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (d, J=16.6 Hz, 1H), 7.63 (d, J=8.8 Hz, 2H), 8.28 (d, J=8.8 Hz, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR (50 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  101.2, 116.7, 124.4, 128.1, 139.2, 147.6, 149.2; Analysis:  $\text{C}_9\text{H}_6\text{N}_2\text{O}_2$  requires C, 66.07; H, 3.47; N, 16.09. found: C, 66.012; H, 3.32; N, 16.32%.

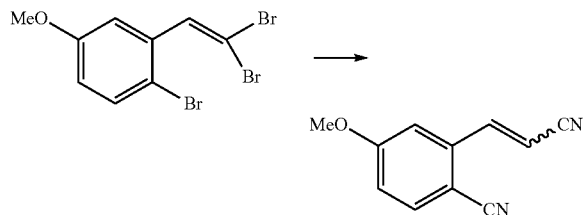
## 2-(2-cyanovinyl)-4,5-dimethoxybenzonitrile (2i)



Yield: 82%; IR ( $\text{CHCl}_3$ ,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ):  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  886, 927, 960, 1037, 1290, 1488, 1503, 2123;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (200 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): E-isomer;  $\delta$  3.95 (s, 3H), 3.98 (s, 3H), 5.98 (d, J=16.5 Hz, 1H), 7.01 (s, 1H), 7.09 (s, 1H), 7.65 (d, J=16.5 Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR (50 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  54.3, 93.7, 102.2, 106.7, 112.6, 115.1, 116.1, 128.2, 142.9, 149.2, 150.8;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (200 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): Z-isomer;  $\delta$  3.96 (s, 3H), 4.02 (s, 3H), 5.60 (d, J=12.1 Hz, 1H), 7.10 (s, 1H), 7.46 (d, J=12.1 Hz, 1H), 7.99 (s, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR (50 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  56.3, 96.9, 106.0, 109.6, 114.1, 116.8, 130.3, 143.6, 150.9, 152.6; Analysis:  $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{10}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2$  requires C, 67.28; H, 4.71; N, 13.08. found: C, 67.79; H, 4.12; N, 13.46%.

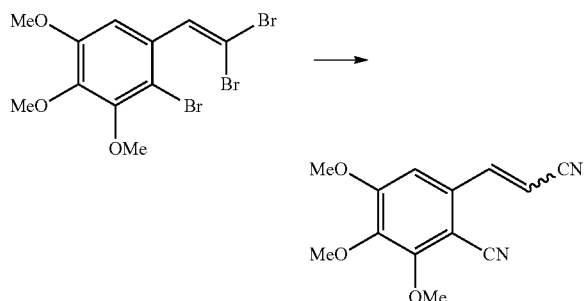
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2-(2-cyanovinyl)-4-methoxybenzonitrile (2j)



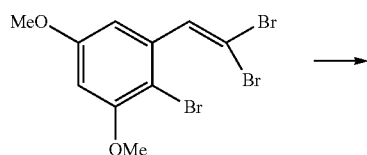
Yield: 73%; IR (CHCl<sub>3</sub>): 547, 709, 767, 833, 856, 1023, 1247, 1597, 2211 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): Z-isomer; δ 3.94 (s, 3H), 5.70 (d, J=12.13 Hz, 1H), 7.01 (dd, J=2.53, 8.72 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (d, J=12.13 Hz, 1H), 7.63 (d, J=8.72 Hz, 1H), 7.86 (d, J=2.53 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 55.80, 99.94, 104.95, 112.23, 116.10, 116.83, 117.88, 134.57, 137.77, 144.00, 162.91 <sup>1</sup>H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 3.91 (s, 3H), 6.07 (d, J=16.54 Hz, 1H), 7.00 (dd, J=2.53, 8.59 Hz, 1H), 7.09 (d, J=2.53 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (d, J=16.54 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (d, 8.59 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 55.79, 101.60, 104.12, 111.95, 116.67, 116.86, 135.25, 137.77, 145.53, 162.94; Analysis: C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>8</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>1</sub> requires C, 71.73, H, 4.38, N, 15.21. found C, 70.18, H, 4.16, N, 14.97%.

6-(2-cyanovinyl)-2,3,4-trimethoxybenzonitrile (2k)



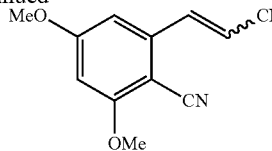
Yield: 71%; IR (CHCl<sub>3</sub>, cm<sup>-1</sup>): ν<sub>max</sub> 791, 845, 964, 1052, 1239, 1412, 1472, 1533, 1664, 2117; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): Z-isomer; δ 3.93 (s, 3H), 4.00 (s, 3H), 4.07 (s, 3H), 5.64 (d, J=12.2, 1H), 7.44 (d, J=12.2, 1H), 7.71 (s, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (50 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 56.4, 61.5, 61.8, 98.4, 101.1, 106.5, 114.1, 116.6, 132.0, 143.5, 143.7, 155.9, 157.3; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): E-isomer; δ 3.91 (s, 3H), 3.96 (s, 3H), 4.06 (s, 3H), 6.03 (d, J=16.5, 1H), 7.81 (s, 1H), 7.59 (d, J=16.5, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (50 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 56.3, 61.1, 61.7, 100.3, 104.6, 114.1, 116.9, 132.2, 143.6, 145.3, 155.8, 157.4 Analysis: C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>12</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> requires C, 63.93; H, 4.95; N, 11.47. found: requires C, 63.71; H, 4.51;

2-(2-cyanovinyl)-4,6-dimethoxybenzonitrile (2l)



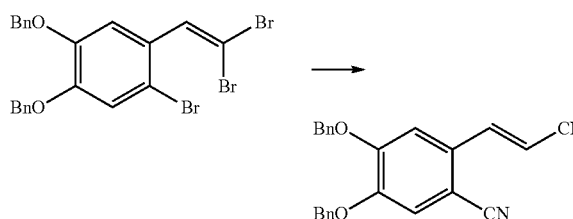
12

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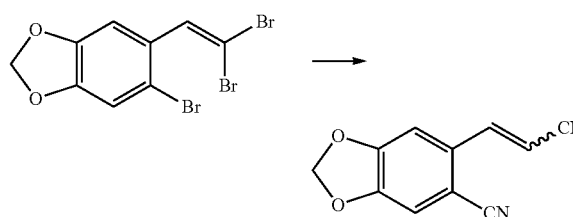
Yield: 71%; IR (CHCl<sub>3</sub>, cm<sup>-1</sup>): ν<sub>max</sub> 791, 845, 964, 1052, 1215, 1239, 1240, 1412, 1472, 1533, 1664, 2970, 3332, 3451; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 3.90 (s, 3H), 3.94 (s, 3H), 6.09 (d, J=16.5, 1H), 6.52 (s, 1H), 6.64 (s, 1H), 7.61 (d, J=16.5, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (50 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 55.9, 56.3, 94.6, 100.1, 101.9, 103.2, 114.4, 116.7, 138.7, 145.8, 163.6, 164.2; Analysis: C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>10</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> requires C, 67.28; H, 4.71; N, 13.08. found: requires C, 67.61; H, 4.42; N, 13.15.

4,5-bis(benzyloxy)-2-((E)-2-cyanovinyl)benzonitrile (2m)



Yield: 71%; IR (CHCl<sub>3</sub>, cm<sup>-1</sup>): ν<sub>max</sub> 752, 991, 1091, 1244, 1279, 1296, 1454, 1462, 1512, 1590, 2219; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 5.21 (s, 2H), 5.29 (s, 2H), 5.54 (d, J=12.2, 1H), 7.13 (s, 1H), 7.32-7.41 (m, 9H), 7.48 (d, J=7.3, 2H), 8.02 (s, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (50 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 71.0, 71.2, 97.0, 106.1, 111.7, 116.9, 127.2, 127.6, 128.4, 128.5, 128.7, 128.8, 130.4, 135.5, 143.6, 150.5, 152.4; Analysis: C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>18</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> requires C, 68.67; H, 4.95; N, 7.65. found: requires C, 68.54; H, 4.85; N, 7.12.

6-(2-cyanovinyl)benzo[d][1,3]dioxole-5-carbonitrile (2n)



Yield: 71%; IR (CHCl<sub>3</sub>, cm<sup>-1</sup>): ν<sub>max</sub> 791, 841, 962, 1034, 1245, 1412, 2217; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 5.62 (d, J=11.9, 1H), 6.17 (s, 2H), 7.10 (s, 1H), 7.45 (d, J=11.9, 1H), 7.84 (s, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (50 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 98.08, 103.1, 107.6, 11.8, 116.2, 116.5, 129.9, 132.4, 143.3, 149.7, 151.9; Analysis: C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>6</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> requires C, 66.67; H, 3.05; N, 14.14. found: requires C, 66.61; H, 3.49; N,

## ADVANTAGES OF INVENTION

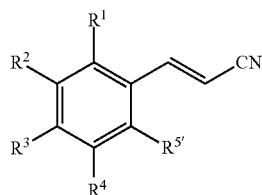
1. One pot process
2. Cheaper, safe and efficient
3. O-cyanocinnamonnitrile and their esters have wide range of industrial applications for example in cosmetic industry.

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4. Broad substrate scope and good functional group tolerance
5. Less amount of effluent generate

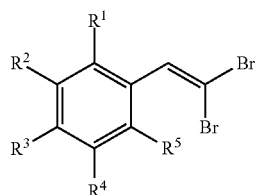
We claim:

1. A one pot, single step process for the preparation of compound of general formula A and its isomers,



Formula A

starting from compounds of formula I,



Formula I

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wherein,

$R^1$  is hydrogen;

$R^2$  is selected from H, OMe, OTs, OBn;

$R^3$  is selected from H, OMe, OTs, OBn,  $NO_2$ ;

$R^4$  is selected from H, OMe, F;

$R^5$  is selected from H,  $NO_2$ , Br;

$R^{5'}$  is selected from H,  $NO_2$ , CN;

$R^2$  and  $R^3$  can together be selected as  $-O-CH_2-O-$ ;

comprising the steps of reacting compound of formula I with CuCN in DMF, under reflux in presence of  $N_2$  atmosphere to obtain the desired compound of formula A in the range of

50-90% yield.

2. The process according to claim 1, wherein said compound of formula I and CuCN are in the ratio of 1:2 to 1:3.

3. The process according to claim 1, wherein said isomers of compound of formula A are trans and cis isomers in the ratio of 3:1 to 10:1.

4. The process according to claim 1, wherein the reaction is carried out at a temperature ranging from 140 to 160° C.

5. The process according to claim 1, wherein the reaction is carried out for a time ranging from 10 to 15 hours.

\* \* \* \* \*